

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *OLIGONYCHUS MILLERI*
(McGREGOR) AND *O. COFFEA* (NIETNER) (ACARI:
TETRANYCHIDAE) IN AUSTRALIA

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Abstract

Previously known only from the U.S.A. and Jamaica, *Oligonychus milleri* (McGregor) was found for the first time in Australia near Armidale (N.S.W.) in 1982. *O. coffea* (Nietner), which has been recorded in Queensland since 1955 and in N.S.W. since 1981, was collected on *Eucalyptus globulus* at Bicheno (Tasmania) in 1983.

Oligonychus milleri (McGregor)

(Figs 1-2)

Paratetranychus milleri McGregor, 1950: 343.

Oligonychus milleri (McGregor), Pritchard and Baker, 1955: 280-281.

This mite described from California on *Pinus ponderosa*, was only known from North America and the Caribbeans. It was collected on various species of pines from the following localities: California, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware (Pritchard & Baker, 1955), and from pines and spruce in New York by Reeves (1963). In California, it was collected by Charlet and McMurtry (1977) on six different pine species (*Pinus quadrifolia*, *P. balfouriana*, *P. aristata*, *P. ponderosa*, *P. coulteri*, *P. attenuata*), at 1800 to over 3000 m, and on three other ornamental plantings of *P. radiata*, *P. pinea* and *P. halepensis*. Tuttle & Baker (1964) mentioned in Arizona several other host plants: *Photinia arbutifolia*, *Evonymus* sp., *Olea europaea*, *Asclepias speciosa* and *Antennaria arida*.

O. milleri has been reported damaging nursery seedlings of *Pinus caribaea* in Jamaica (Muma and Apeji, 1970). Damage includes yellowing and bronzing of the needles on seedlings and sometimes leads to the death of young trees.

In N.S.W., where the most common spider mite on conifers is *Oligonychus ununguis* (Jacobi) (Gutierrez and Schicha, 1983), *O. milleri* was identified for the first time on *Pinus radiata* at Uphill near Armidale, 7-XII-1982, from a small sample collected by A. J. Campbell; the specimens were causing yellowing and browning of the needles.

The aedeagus of the male (Fig. 1), is very distinctive: it is bent downwards at an acute angle, and has a long distal end. The dorsum of the female (Fig. 2) has short hysterosomal setae, the dorsocentrals D₁ to D₄ increasing in length progressively.

Tibia I bears 5 ordinary setae, one bothridial seta and one solenidion; tarsus I has one proximal ordinary seta and one solenidion.

Tibia II has 4 ordinary setae, tarsus II one proximal ordinary seta.

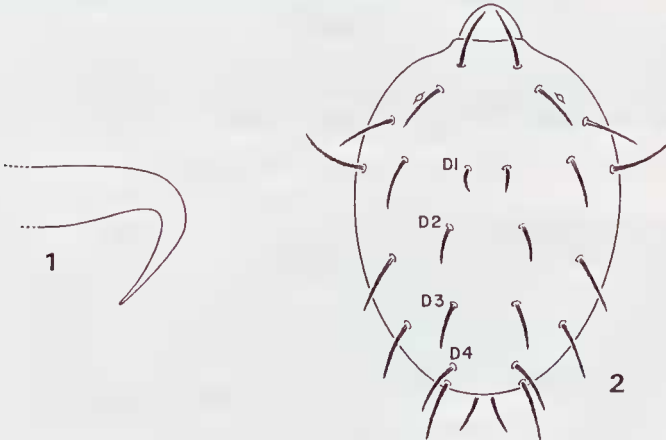
Oligonychus coffea (Nietner)

Acarus coffea Nietner, 1861.

Oligonychus coffea (Nietner), Pritchard and Baker, 1955: 315.

Known in Queensland on *Quisqualis indica* (Pritchard & Baker, 1955), this species was then collected on several other crops in the same state and recorded in N.S.W. on litchi and avocado (Rand & Schicha, 1981).

O. coffeae was recently detected in Tasmania on leaves of *Eucalyptus globulus*, Bicheno, 11-III-1983 (Coll. J. Gutierrez). This record indicates that, extending south of latitude 40° south, the range of distribution of the tea red spider mite is probably very wide in Australia.



Figs 1-2. *Oligonychus milleri* (McGregor): (1) aedeagus of the male; (2) dorsum of the female.

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